

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed October 19, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-20 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 2, 8, 14 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

REQUEST FOR PRIORITY DOCUMENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Office Action noted that Applicants had not previously submitted a copy of the French priority application No. 02/12851. Applicants respectfully point out that the French priority was previously submitted and was received by the Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicants respectfully request that the Patent and Trademark Office acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of French priority application No. 02/12851 to which this application claims priority. A certified copy of French application No. 02/12851 was mailed to the Patent Office on October 31, 2003 in the application U.S. Serial No. 10/682,187 and was received in the Patent Office on November 3, 2003. Applicants enclose copies of the original transmittal letter which accompanied the submission of the certified copy of French application No. 02/12851, the first three pages of the certified copy which bear the application No. 02/12851, and the return receipt post card indicating the certified copy of French priority application No. 02/12851, was, in fact, received by the Patent and Trademark Office.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS

The Office Action objected to claims 8 and 19 because the control signal having the intermediate stage of zero slope during the transition was not shown in the drawing figures. Applicants have enclosed a new figure (FIG. 9) which shows an intermediate stage of zero slope during the transition. Support in the specification for new FIG. 9 can be found on page 8, lines 5-21. No new matter has been added to the application.

The Office Action objected to the drawings because FIGS. 1, 2, 3 and 4 did not include the legend "prior art." FIGS. 1, 2, 3 and 4 have been amended to include the legend "prior art."

Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 6 because it is purportedly unclear as to what an average slope is. Claim 1 has been amended for clarity. An average slope is defined in claim 1 as the average of the slope for a duration of the transition of the control signal. Claim 1 is now clear enough to satisfy the statute.

Claims 2-5 were rejected based on dependency from claim 1.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, claim 6 has also been amended for clarity. Claim 6 is now clear enough to satisfy the statute.

Claims 7-9 were rejected based on dependency from claim 6.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 because it is purportedly unclear whether the control signal has a non-zero finite slope or the control signal transition has a non-zero finite slope. Claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the control signal transition has a non-zero finite slope.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action rejected several claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103, however, Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 8, 14, 18 and 19. Applicants do not accede to the propriety of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103. To further the prosecution of this application only, Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 8, 14 and 18 in independent form. Claims 1, 6, 10 and 16 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 2, 8, 14 and 18, respectively. The limitations of claim 8 that have been incorporated into claim 6 have been amended to clarify that the control signal transition has an intermediary stage with a zero slope between the second level and the first level. The limitations of claim 2 that have been incorporated into claim 1 have been amended to include further punctuation for clarity. Therefore, all the claims are now believed to be in allowable form.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Order No. S1022.81052US00 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

“Replacement Sheets” are attached which include a clean version of amended FIGS. 1-4. The attached sheets replace the original sheets including FIGS. 1-4. FIGS. 1-4 have been amended to include the legend – Prior Art –, as requested in the Office Action.

A new figure has been included on an attached sheet, as requested in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the present application be amended to include new FIG. 9, attached.